

Basic Detail Report



Handkerchief

Date

mid 20th Century

Medium

Fabric

Description

This mid 20th century handkerchief comes from a group of souvenir objects purchased in France, likely in the early postwar period when there was a strong sense of unity after Allied forces liberated the country. Yet a handkerchief is a curious object to be embroidered with a flag. If the decorated portion of the hankie were used for its intended purpose one would be blowing their nose on a sacrosanct symbol. The flag was never intended to be used as anything but a stoic icon of patriotic sentiment but since its introduction it has continued to evolve. Visually this took the form of new stars being added every time a state joined the union. Symbolically as it spread and became an icon of American identity, the flag became more and more pervasive in where it was used.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 1/2 x 12 1/2 in. (31.8 x 31.8 cm)